

REMARKS

Claims 41, 43-48, 50, 51, 55 and 57 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application. Claims 1 – 42, 52 – 54 and 56 were cancelled previously.

In the Final Office Action dated June 14, 2010, the Examiner rejected claims 42-48, 50, 51, 55 and 57.

With this Supplemental response, claim 42 is amended. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the Amendment.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection of Claims

Claims 42, 44, 48, 50, 51 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over JP 55-157604 in view of JP 52-063189 and Sugo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,783,608).

Claims 45-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over JP 55-157604 in view of JP 52-063189, Sugo et al. and in further view of Grant et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,242,503).

Claims 43 and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over JP 55-157604 in view of JP 52-063189, Sugo et al. and in further view of Rodman (U.S. Patent No. 3,375,933).

Applicant respectfully traverses each of the above listed rejections.

The claims require a cleansing method that includes the steps of providing a cleansing processing agent in a solid state which is non-water soluble and treating said polymer with an acid and/or an alkali to convert via hydrolysis the acrylonitrile into hydrophilic substituents and/or introduce an ionic substituent into the said polymer. The ionic substituent is at least one selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acids, hydroxyl groups, $\text{PO}(\text{OH})_2$, $\text{CH}_2\text{PO}(\text{OH})_3$, NO_2 and salts thereof.

JP 55-157604 does not teach or even fairly suggest the addition of an ionic substituent selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acids, hydroxyl groups, $\text{PO}(\text{OH})_2$, $\text{CH}_2\text{PO}(\text{OH})_3$, NO_2 and salts thereof as required by the claims.

Thus, because 55-157604 fails to teach or even fairly suggest all the required elements of the claims, claims 42, 44, 48, 50, 51 and 55 are patentable over the above cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection be withdrawn. Additionally, the rejection of dependent claims 43, 45-47 and 57 which are based in part on JP 55-157604 should be withdrawn for at least the same reasons.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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